

FORM PTO-1390 TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 9-2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		T0853 US U.S. APPLICATION NO. (Unknown, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>107030094</b>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/04397	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 9 May 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 13 May 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION: HYDROCARBON CONVERSION PROCESS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: GOSSELINK, Johan W.; GROENEVELD, Michiel J.; NOWAK, Andreas, K.; and ROOVERS, Antonius, A.M.			
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedure (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11 to 16 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821-1.825</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: postcard for date stamping only</li> </ol>			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/04397	ATTORNEYS DOCKET NUMBER TS0853 US																
<p>21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p><b>Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5):</b> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$104.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$890.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$740.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$710.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b></p>																			
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>																			
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).			\$890.00																
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>CLAIMS</th> <th>NUMBER FILED</th> <th>NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th>RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Claims</td> <td>24 - 20 =</td> <td>4</td> <td>x \$ 18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Claims</td> <td>1 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x \$ 84.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>+ \$280.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	Total Claims	24 - 20 =	4	x \$ 18.00	Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$ 84.00	Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00		\$
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<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.			\$																
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Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			\$																
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>																			
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property			\$																
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<p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ ..... cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>19-1800</u> in the amount of <u>\$962.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>19-1800</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>																			
<p><b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b></p>																			
<p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <p><u>Kim Muller</u> SIGNATURE</p> <p>Kimbley L. Muller NAME <u>27,577</u> REGISTRATION NUMBER</p>																			
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231 on or before the date shown below.

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Barbara Fisher

Barbara Fisher

Date: November 12, 2001

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT International Application of )  
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15 GOSSELINK, Johan W. et al. )  
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Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP00/04397 )  
 )  
Int. Filing Date: 9 May 2000 )  
 )  
20 HYDROCARBON CONVERSION PROCESS ) 12 November 2001

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
25 Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

30 Applicant request entry of the following amendments prior to consideration of the claims pending in the application.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

35 Amend claims: 2-18. Add new claims: 19-24.

2. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which use is made of feedstocks ranging from those having an initial boiling point of about ambient to those having a final boiling point of about 650°C.

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3. Once Amended) The process of claim 2, in which use is made of feedstocks having a boiling point range such that their 90% boiling point lies in the range between about 400°C and about 600°C.

4. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which use is made of feedstocks having a sulphur content of not more than 5 %wt.

5 5. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which a hydrocarbonaceous feedstock is used containing between about 5 %wt and about 40 %wt of material having a boiling point range which is the same or higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product to be recovered.

10 6. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which kerosene and/or gas oil are recovered as hydro-processed products from the hydrocracked feedstock.

7. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which part or all of the non-recovered material from the catalytic hydrocracking treatment is subjected to a catalytic oxidation process which produces hydrogen and carbon (di) oxide.

15 8. (Once Amended) The process of claim 7, in which the catalytic oxidation process comprises a catalytic partial oxidation step.

20 9. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which kerosene and/or gas oil are produced from no feedstocks other than the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock and water used in the watergas-shift step.

25 10. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which hydrogen sulphide generated by the hydrocracking treatment is converted into elemental sulphur by conventional means.

11. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst system capable of converting at least 50 %wt of the material, 30 having a boiling point range which is higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product.

12. (Once Amended) The process of claim 11, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst containing zeolite beta as active component.

13. Once Amended) The process of claim 12, in which the zeolite beta-based 5 catalyst is capable of converting at least 90 %wt of the fraction to be treated to obtain the hydroprocessed product.

14. (Once Amended) The process of claim 11, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a temperature between about 200 and about 550 °C.

10 15. (Once Amended) The process of claim 11, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a pressure up to about 400 atmospheres.

16. (Once Amended) The process of claim 7, in which the hydrogen generated by 15 the catalytic oxidation step has been produced at least partly from hydrocarbons containing at most 4 carbon atoms present in the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock or as produced during the hydrocracking treatment.

17. (Once Amended) The process of claim 16, in which the feedstock to the 20 catalytic oxidation step consists of hydrocarbons having about 4 or less carbon atoms.

18. (Once Amended) The process of claim 1, in which hydrogen is separated off from the hydrocracked feedstock and from the hydroprocessed product if the latter is not to be recovered prior to the treatment to produce hydrogen.

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**Add new claims:**

19. The process of claim 1, in which use is made of feedstocks having a sulphur content of below 3 %wt.

30 20. The process of claim 7, in which the catalytic oxidation process comprises a watergas-shift step.

21. The process of claim 1, in which hydrogen is produced from no feedstocks other than the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock and water used in the watergas-shift step.

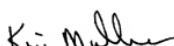
22. The process of claim 1, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst system  
5 capable of converting at least 65 %wt of the material, having a boiling point range which is higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product.

23. The process of claim 11, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a temperature between about 250°C and about 450 °C.

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24. The process of claim 11, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a pressure between about 10 and about 200 atmospheres.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

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2. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim 1, in which use is made of feedstocks ranging from those having an initial boiling point of about ambient to those having a final boiling point of about 650°C.

10 3. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim 2, in which use is made of feedstocks having a boiling point range such that their 90% boiling point lies in the range between about 400°C and about 600°C.

15 4. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-3], in which use is made of feedstocks having a sulphur content of not more than 5 %wt[, preferably below 3 %wt].

20 5. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-4], in which a hydrocarbonaceous feedstock is used containing between about 5 %wt and about 40 %wt of material having a boiling point range which is the same or higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product to be recovered.

25 6. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-5], in which kerosene and/or gas oil are recovered as hydro-processed products from the hydrocracked feedstock.

7. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-6], in which part or all of the non-recovered material from the catalytic hydrocracking treatment is subjected to a catalytic oxidation process which produces hydrogen and 30 carbon (di) oxide.

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8. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim 7, in which the catalytic oxidation process comprises a catalytic partial oxidation step [and a watergas-shift step].

9. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-8], in 5 which kerosene and/or gas oil [and hydrogen] are produced from no feedstocks other than the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock and water used in the watergas-shift step.

10. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-9], in which hydrogen sulphide generated by the hydrocracking treatment is converted into 10 elemental sulphur by conventional means.

11. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 1[-10], in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst system capable of converting at least 50 %wt[, preferably at least 65 %wt] of the material, having a boiling point range which is 15 higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product.

12. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim 11, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst containing zeolite beta as active component.

20 13. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim 12, in which the zeolite beta-based catalyst is capable of converting at least 90 %wt of the fraction to be treated to obtain the hydroprocessed product.

14. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 11[-13], in 25 which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a temperature between about 200 and about 550 °C[, preferably at a temperature between 250 and 450 °C].

30 15. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 11[-14], in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a pressure up to about 400 atmospheres[, preferably at a pressure between 10 and 200 atmospheres].

16. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 7[-15], in which the hydrogen generated by the catalytic oxidation step has been produced at least partly from hydrocarbons containing at most 4 carbon atoms present in the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock or as produced during the hydrocracking treatment.

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17. (Amended) The [P] process [according to] of claim16, in which the feedstock to the catalytic oxidation step consists of hydrocarbons having about 4 or less carbon atoms.

10 18. (Amended) The [P] process [according to one or more] of claim[s] 11[-17], in which hydrogen is separated off from the hydrocracked feedstock and from the hydroprocessed product if the latter is not to be recovered prior to the treatment to produce hydrogen.

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HYDROCARBON CONVERSION PROCESS

The present invention relates to a process for converting hydrocarbonaceous feedstocks in a flexible manner.

For many years, refiners have been, and to some extent still are, focusing on maximising the size of the capacity as far as possible or on optimising the infrastructure of existing refineries in order to minimise costs or, even better, to find the most pragmatic solution for both maximising throughput and optimising infrastructure. In this approach, and even when designing grass-roots refineries, the emphasis is on large refineries as the huge costs involved can only be justified by the processing of large amounts of feedstocks, especially since the present day markets are international and product made in one location can be sold in other locations. Such refineries, sometimes referred to as export-refineries, have proven their existence over the years.

In the context of existing refineries it is understandable because of fixed logistics that adaptations are designed in such a way that they fit with the current infrastructure which means that whilst certain adaptations may possibly be optimal for a certain part of the refinery, they most likely are not for another part, or even all other parts of the refinery.

In order to curb the costs of refineries one can think of downsizing the scale of the operations but it is easy to understand that in downsizing the scale of a refinery, the advantages gained because of the increase in size, and its complementary optimisation of the

intrinsic infrastructure are lost, if not completely than at least to a large extent.

Moreover, fixed operations like those performed in huge refineries do not have much flexibility and one can not cope easily with changes in the market place, in particular when such changes would be radical, rather frequent and not easy to predict.

An example of a refinery scheme which has been designed to become more simple in that it could be built on a compact plot plan and at possibly low capital investment costs has been described in European published patent application EP-A-635555. In essence, the refinery scheme as disclosed in EP-A-635555 is directed at operating a single hydrotreating unit followed by a distillation into a number of fractions.

The difference between the refinery scheme as proposed in EP-A-635555 and the prior art referred to in said document is said to be that in conventional refining crude oil is separated into several fractions which are then (hydro)treated individually. The results described when using a feedstock containing C5-360 °C material (the total of the four fractions normally obtained when the feedstock is firstly subjected to distillation) give the impression that a refinery can be simplified to a great extent without reducing the hydrotreating effect obtained in the prior art. It is clear, however, that when the fraction containing C4 and lower hydrocarbons (the C4-fraction), also forming part of the crude oil taken in but not forming part of the hydrotreating process of the C5-360 °C material, is used additionally in the single hydrotreating unit, the results are less encouraging. It is further stated in EP-A-635555 that part of one of the products obtained after distillation can be sent to a catalytic reformer in order to produce hydrogen which can be used in the single hydrotreating step.

5           In US 3,463,611 a process has been described which is aimed at recovering sulphur from sulphur-containing feed streams by a rather complex line-up designed at concentrating hydrogen sulphide in a sufficiently high concentration in a recycle stream of which a purge gas stream is fed to a partial oxidation zone after which hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide removed from that zone are led to a Claus process for the manufacture of sulphur. The process as described in US 3,463,611 is in  
10           essence a hydrogen consuming process which may need additional make up hydrogen which can be fed into the hydrogen line to the hydroconversion unit.

15           In US 3,224,958 a process has been described in which a hydrocarbon feed is separated into a light and a heavy fraction which are separately subjected to a hydroconversion step followed by combined working up of the converted feedstocks comprising a catalytic hydrogenation unit, a gas generator and a shift reactor in order to produce recycle hydrogen of passable quality. Some hydrogen of low quality is removed as a purge stream prior to the gas generator and shift conversion stages. In essence, the process as described in US 3,224,958 is directed at the production of hydrocarbons rather than hydrogen.

25           In US 3,189,538 a process has been described in which hydrogen is produced not only from a converted feedstock but also from a cracking/regeneration system tailored to produce hydrogen from an auxiliary charge whilst integrating parts of the cracker/regenerator overhead with the hydrogen supply to the hydrogen consuming process. In essence, the process as described in US 3,189,538 is inflexible in that it requires two not integrated hydrogen production units, one of which being a fluidized cracking unit which is very expensive and not normally used as a hydrogen production facility.

line 9. From hydrocracking unit 10 the hydrocracked feedstock is sent via line 2 to separating unit 20 from which a hydroprocessed product will be obtained via line 3 and a hydrogen sulphide containing hydrocracked stream will be obtained which is sent via line 4 to a hydrogen sulphide removal unit 30. From unit 30 a hydrogen sulphide containing stream will be obtained which is sent via line 5 to a sulphur recovery unit (not shown) to produce sulphur, and a hydrogen sulphide depleted hydrocracked stream which can be sent via line 6a to hydrogen separating unit 35 (or in the event that hydrogen is not separated at this part in the process directly via line 6 (6a + 6b) to hydrogen manufacturing unit 40) from which hydrogen separated off is sent back via line 36 to line 1 as part of the hydrogen needed in hydrocracking unit 10 and the remaining hydrogen sulphide (and optionally hydrogen) depleted hydrocracked feedstock is sent via line 6b to hydrogen manufacturing unit 40. In the event that this unit contains a catalytic partial oxidation stage and a watergas-shift stage, water (or steam) will be sent to the watergas-shift stage via line 11b. Carbon dioxide will be obtained via line 8 and hydrogen produced will be sent back to the hydrocracking unit 10 via lines 7 and 9 (optionally together with hydrogen via line 36) whereas excess hydrogen can be made available via line 10.

In Figure 1 a further process embodiment can be illustrated in which a sulphur containing feedstock is processed in such a way that all hydrocracked feedstock (including the fraction which is recoverable as hydroprocessed product) is used to produce (excess) hydrogen, i.e. a process in which apart from sulphur and carbon dioxide only hydrogen is the final product. In this embodiment the hydroprocessed product normally to be recovered via line 3 is now sent together with hydro-

Moreover, in order to operate such process no less than three different hydrocarbon charges have to be used to supply the main conversion processes.

It has now been found that flexibility can be improved by further process integration to the extent that part of the product obtained in a hydrocracking operation should be used as feedstock for producing hydrogen which is used in the hydrocracking operation to produce the desired refinery products. The hydrocracking operation should be carried out in such a way that, depending on the product slate envisaged, a fraction is produced which can be used optimally in the production of hydrogen. This means that the process according to the present invention achieves the combined goals of reconstituting the feedstock by the treatment in the hydrocracker whilst at the same time producing or increasing the amount of the fraction which is elected to serve in toto or in part as feedstock for the hydrogen production facility to be used in the hydrocracking operation.

The present invention therefore relates to a process for producing hydrogen and a hydroprocessed product from a hydrocarbonaceous feedstock by subjecting it to a catalytic hydrocracking treatment using hydrogen which has been at least partly produced from hydrocracked feedstock and subjecting at least part of the hydrocracked feedstock, after having subjected it to a separation treatment in the event that hydroprocessed product is to be recovered, to a treatment to produce hydrogen in a single operation which hydrogen is at least partly recovered as product, characterised in that the amount of hydrogen produced by the process exceeds the amount of hydrogen needed in the process.

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The process according to the present invention comprises therefore in essence a hydrocracking operation, optionally a separation operation and a hydrogen

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production operation provided with the appropriate feed inlet, product outlet(s) and hydrogen transfer line(s).

5 The process according to the present invention can be carried out in a number of ways, depending on the nature of the feedstock, the severity of the intended hydro-cracking operation and the type and amount of the specific hydrocracked feedstock fraction to be used as feedstock for the hydrogen producing facility.

10 Hydrocarbonaceous feedstocks which can be suitably applied in the process according to the present invention are those ranging from having an initial boiling point of about ambient to those having a final boiling point of about 650 °C, measured under standard conditions of temperature and pressure (20 °C and 1 atmosphere). It 15 will be clear that feedstocks which can be applied in the method according to the present invention do not need to have a boiling range profile encompassing the total range disclosed hereinabove. Feedstocks having a boiling point range such that their 90% boiling point (i.e. the temperature at which 90% of the feedstock would have been distilled off in a distillation process) lies in the range between 400 and 600 °C can be advantageously applied. Preference is given to feedstocks having a 90% 20 boiling point in the range between 450 and 600 °C. Good 25 results can be obtained with feedstocks having a 90% boiling point in the range from 475 to 550 °C.

30 Examples of feedstocks which can be suitably applied are naphtha, kerosene and various types of gas oils such as atmospheric gas oil and vacuum gas oil. Also cycle oils can be suitably applied. Not only feedstocks from mineral origin but also from synthetic origin can be applied. Synthetic or semi-synthetic feedstocks are 35 preferred from a low sulphur and/or nitrogen point of view as such feedstocks reduce the necessity of having sulphur and/or nitrogen removing processes forming part

Art. 34.

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of product upgrading. Hydrocarbonaceous materials formed from syngas via the so-called Fischer-Tropsch process form a very useful feedstock for the process according to the present invention as such feedstocks would obviate 5 the need for sulphur and/or nitrogen treatment and removal facilities.

It is possible that the hydrocarbonaceous feedstocks to be applied in the process according to the present invention contain also materials boiling below ambient 10 temperature. Such materials may be present in the feedstock to be applied or can be added to such feedstock. Reference is made to the presence of lower hydrocarbons or hydrocarbon fractions such as liquefied petroleum gas.

15 It is advantageous to use a feedstock which contains between 5 and 40% by weight of material having a boiling point range which is higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product.

20 Feedstocks containing sulphur containing materials can also be processed. Normally, the amount of sulphur will not exceed 5% by weight, and preferably will not exceed 3% by weight. Preference is given to feedstocks containing even lower amounts of sulphur, or no sulphur at all.

25 It will be clear to those skilled in the art that extraneous hydrogen will have to be introduced in the context of the start-up of the process according to the present invention. Part or all of the hydrogen to be consumed during the hydrocracking step of the process 30 according to the present invention will be generated in the hydrogen manufacturing unit forming part of the line-up.

35 The catalytic hydrocracking treatment in accordance with the present invention can be suitably carried out at temperatures in the range between 200 and 550 °C,

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preferably between 250 and 450 °C. Pressures up to 400 bar can be suitably applied, preference is given to pressures in the range between 10 and 200 atmospheres.

5 In the process according to the present invention at least part of the hydrogen to be used in the hydro-cracking treatment will be generated from hydrocracked feedstock. Therefore, catalyst are preferably used which are capable of converting not only that part of the feedstock which delivers the hydroprocessed product but 10 also of converting other parts of the feedstock to such an extent that the remaining hydrocracked feedstock is a good source for hydrogen production. In other words, preference is given to catalysts which also produce large amounts of lower boiling materials (besides the hydro-cracked product).

15 Examples of catalysts which can be used in the hydrocracking treatment in accordance with the process in accordance with the present invention are zeolitic catalysts having a tendency to overcrack hydrocarbonaceous material from a conventional point of view (in which as far as possible only those fractions of the feedstock are cracked which deliver the desired hydrocrackate whilst preserving as much as possible of the initial feedstock, or at least to the extent that 20 liquid material will remain and therefore minimising the production of gaseous material). In the process in accordance with the present invention, it is advantageous to apply hydrocracking catalysts which are capable of producing besides the desired product(s) also a fair 25 amount of lower boiling materials, which from a conventional hydrocracking point of view is not preferred at all. Examples of such catalysts can be based on zeolite beta, zeolite Y, ZSM-5, erionite and chabazite. It will be clear to those skilled in the art which 30 specific zeolite material and which specific metal(s)

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having hydrocracking capabilities can be used, taking into account that preference is given to catalysts giving rather high yields on relatively light products as such products reduce the severity of that part of the process which is directed at the production of hydrogen. As an example suitable catalysts comprise zeolite beta containing one or more of Group VI and/or one or more of Group VIII metals. Examples of Group VI metals comprise Mo and W. Examples of Group VIII metals comprise Ni, Co, Pt and Pd. Suitable catalysts contain between 2 and 40% by weight of Group VI metals and/or between 0.1. and 10% by weight of Group VIII metals. Suitably, the catalysts are supported catalysts. Examples of suitable supports are alumina, silica, silica-alumina, magnesia, zirconia and mixtures of two or more of such supports. Alumina is a preferred support material, optionally in combination with silica-alumina.

Also combinations of two or more catalysts can be suitably applied. Examples of catalyst combinations include so-called stacked-bed catalysts which comprise using different beds filled with (different) catalytic material. The choice of the specific combinations of catalyst beds will be dependent on the process mode envisaged as is known to those skilled in the art.

An important embodiment of the process according to the present invention is one wherein kerosene and/or gas oil is (are) the hydroprocessed product(s) to be recovered from the process whilst hydrogen is produced in an amount exceeding the amount required to satisfy the internal needs of the process.

The remaining hydrocracked feedstock, optionally in combination with part, or even all of the hydroprocessed product in cases when there is no direct outlet for that product, will then be subjected to a treatment to produce hydrogen in a single operation of which at least part is

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recovered as product (in addition to the amount used to satisfy the hydrogen requirement (consumption) of the process according to the present invention). The surplus hydrogen can be used as export hydrogen which as such is 5 then available for various applications, such as chemical reagent or as a source for producing electricity.

The process according to the invention allows for the 10 production of hydrogen of good quality, i.e. hydrogen having a purity of at least 80%, preferably at least 90% which enlarges the window of operation.

It will be clear that during start-up procedures, use 15 will have to be made of an outside hydrogen source until the process is self-sufficient with respect to its hydrogen consumption. For instance, use can be made of hydrogen available in storage containers.

As some hydrogen may already be present in the 20 feedstock to the hydrogen-producing machine, it can be useful to separate it and use it as part of the amount of hydrogen needed to satisfy the hydrogen requirement of the process. This can be conveniently done by subjecting the hydrocracked feedstock to a separation process involving a membrane which will allow passage of hydrogen whilst retaining heavier molecules. Those skilled in the art know which membrane to use and how to operate such 25 membrane.

There are many processes known in the art which are 30 capable of producing hydrogen from hydrocarbonaceous feedstocks. Those skilled in the art know such processes and how to operate them. Producing hydrogen in a single operation can be carried out in one vessel but optionally in two or more vessels such as in a unit which is composed of a catalytic partial oxidation step and one or more shift conversion steps. A convenient process is catalytic (partial) oxidation. Other suitable processes

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are steam-methane reforming and catalytic dehydrogenation of lower alkanes such as propane or butane.

A preferred hydrogen-producing system can be found in the combination of catalytic partial oxidation and the watergas-shift reaction which last reaction, in essence, converts carbon monoxide, produced together with hydrogen in the catalytic partial oxidation reaction, in the presence of water (steam under the process conditions) to hydrogen and carbon dioxide. The net result of the combined catalytic oxidation/watergas-shift reaction is that hydrocarbonaceous material is converted into hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

Normally, the combined catalytic partial oxidation/watergas-shift process can be operated at a efficiency of at least 50%, calculated on hydrogen produced, preferably with an efficiency of at least 65%, calculated on hydrogen produced (not taking into account hydrogen present in the hydrocracked feedstock).

Suitable catalysts for the catalytic partial oxidation process in accordance with the process according to the present invention comprise one or more metals of Group VIII of the Periodic Table of the Elements supported on a carrier. Examples of suitable metals comprise rhodium, iridium and ruthenium as well as combination of two or more of these metals. Especially carriers having a high tortuosity can be suitably applied. Suitable process conditions comprise using oxygen:carbon molar ratios in the range between 0.30 and 0.80, preferably between 0.45 and 0.75, and most preferably between 0.45 and 0.65; temperatures between 800 °C and 1200 °C, in particular between 900 °C and 1100 °C whilst using a gas velocity in the range between 100,000 and 10,000,000 l/kg/hr, preferably in the range between 250,000 and 2,000,000 l/kg/hr.

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An advantage of the process according to the present invention is that when hydrogen is produced as the main product, carbon dioxide is produced at the same time in appreciable amounts which may be useful for commercial operations such as for enhanced oil recovery or for heating purposes in the event that an appropriate infrastructure is available (such as urban communities and/or green-house agriculture).

Since feedstocks containing up to about 5 %wt of sulphur can be used in the process according to the present invention, the treatment with hydrogen will cause production of hydrogen sulphide. It will be clear that in such instances a further process step will be necessary to remove hydrogen sulphide from the hydrocracked feedstock and to convert it into sulphur. When the pressure is released prior to separating off the hydroprocessed product, hydrogen sulphide will be removed preferentially and can be sent to a further processing unit such as a SCOT-unit, or, if the concentration of hydrogen is large enough it can be fed directly to a CLAUS-unit. Those skilled in the art know such processing facilities and how to operate them.

Various embodiments of the process according to the present invention can be schematically illustrated by means of Figure 1.

In Figure 1 an embodiment is illustrated in which a sulphur-containing feedstock is processed in such a way as to deliver at least one hydroprocessed product to be recovered as marketable product together with hydrogen produced for use in the process according to the present invention as well as for export.

A feedstock is introduced via line 1 into hydro-cracking unit 10 in which the feedstock is subjected to a catalytic treatment with hydrogen under hydrocracking conditions. Hydrogen is introduced into line 1 via

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cracked feedstock via line 4 to hydrogen sulphide removal unit 30 whereafter the further steps are as depicted in Figure 1.

5 A further embodiment in accordance with the process according to the invention is that wherein use is made of a sulphur-free feedstock (i.e. of a feedstock of synthetic or semi-synthetic nature or of a feedstock which has already been subjected to a hydrodesulphurisation treatment). In such embodiment, it is not 10 longer necessary to separate off a hydrogen sulphide containing hydrocracked feedstock (or to send the total hydrocracked feedstock to the (optional) hydrogen separating unit) which means that the process as 15 schematically represented in Figure 1 is now operated without using hydrogen sulphide removal unit 30.

Examples

The process according to the present invention can be illustrated by the following prophetic examples.

Example 1

20 A hydrocarbonaceous feedstock having an IBP of 121 °C and a 90% boiling point of 533 °C and containing 0.02% by weight of sulphur can be passed (in an amount of 10 tons/day together with 1.5 tons/day of hydrogen, representative for the hydrogen/feedstock ratio) over a 25 zeolite beta type alumina supported catalyst in hydrocracking unit 10 under conditions to convert in single pass 90 %wt of the feedstock to lower boiling material. As product, 45 %wt, calculated on hydrocarbonaceous feedstock intake, of a hydroprocessed 30 product (comprising kerosene and gas oil) can be obtained whilst the remaining hydrocracked feedstock can be sent to the hydrogen sulphide removal unit. After separating off hydrogen present in the hydrocracked feedstock (and returning it to the feedstock to be used as part of the 35 hydrogen needed in the hydrocracking unit) after leaving

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the hydrogen sulphide removal unit, 55 %wt, calculated on hydrocarbonaceous feedstock, can be sent to hydrogen manufacturing unit 40 (containing a catalytic partial oxidation unit in conjunction with a watergas-shift reactor) to which steam in an amount of 7 tons/day can be added. Under the prevailing conditions, 1.1 tons/day of hydrogen can be produced (together with the formation of 17 tons/day of carbon dioxide). Of the amount of hydrogen produced, 200 kg/day can be used to balance the hydrogen consumption in hydrocracking unit 10 whilst 900 kg/day can be available for export.

Example 2

A hydrocarbonaceous feedstock as defined in Example 1 can be subjected to a treatment designed at producing excess hydrogen as the main product (both in order to satisfy the internal needs of the process and for export availability). With a hydrogen consumption of 400 kg/day and under a conversion of 90% per pass to be obtained by using a zeolite beta type catalyst as described in Example 1 a hydrocracked feedstock is produced, which after hydrogen sulphide removal and separating off recycle hydrogen can be sent in its entirety to the hydrogen manufacturing unit which also needs to be supplied with 13.3 ton/day of steam. The unit can produce 2.05 ton/day of hydrogen of which an amount to satisfy the internal needs of the process can be sent to the hydrocracking unit (taking into account the amount of hydrogen already liberated in the separating off operation prior to hydrogen manufacture). Under the conditions as given above 32 ton/day of carbon dioxide can be co-produced whilst 1.65 ton/day of hydrogen can become available for export.

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1. Process for producing hydrogen and a hydroprocessed product from a hydrocarbonaceous feedstock, comprising subjecting the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock to a catalytic hydrocracking treatment using hydrogen which has been at least partly produced from hydrocracked feedstock and subjecting at least part of the hydrocracked feedstock, after having subjected it to a separation treatment in the event that hydroprocessed product is to be recovered, to a treatment to produce hydrogen in a single operation which hydrogen is at least partly recovered as product, characterised in that the amount of hydrogen produced by the process exceeds the amount of hydrogen needed in the process.
2. Process according to claim 1, in which use is made of feedstocks ranging from those having an initial boiling point of about ambient to those having a final boiling point of about 650 °C.
3. Process according to claim 2, in which use is made of feedstocks having a boiling point range such that their 90% boiling point lies in the range between 400 °C and 600 °C.
4. Process according to one or more of claims 1-3, in which use is made of feedstocks having a sulphur content of not more than 5 %wt, preferably below 3 %wt.
25. Process according to one or more of claims 1-4, in which a hydrocarbonaceous feedstock is used containing between 5 and 40 %wt of material having a boiling point range which is the same or higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product to be recovered.

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6. Process according to one or more of claims 1-5, in which kerosene and/or gas oil are recovered as hydro-processed products from the hydrocracked feedstock.

5 7. Process according to one or more of claims 1-6, in which part or all of the non-recovered material from the catalytic hydrocracking treatment is subjected to a catalytic oxidation process which produces hydrogen and carbon (di)oxide.

10 8. Process according to claim 7, in which the catalytic oxidation process comprises a catalytic partial oxidation step and a watergas-shift step.

9. Process according to one or more of claims 1-8, in which kerosene and/or gas oil and hydrogen are produced from no feedstocks other than the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock and water used in the watergas-shift step.

15 10. Process according to one or more of claims 1-9, in which hydrogen sulphide generated by the hydrocracking treatment is converted into elemental sulphur by conventional means.

20 11. Process according to one or more of claims 1-10, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst system capable of converting at least 50 %wt, preferably at least 65 %wt of the material having a boiling point range which is higher than the boiling point range of the hydroprocessed product.

25 12. Process according to claim 11, in which use is made of a hydrocracking catalyst containing zeolite beta as active component.

30 13. Process according to claim 12, in which the zeolite beta-based catalyst is capable of converting at least 90 %wt of the fraction to be treated to obtain the hydroprocessed product.

14. Process according to one or more of claims 11-13, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a

temperature between 200 and 550 °C, preferably at a temperature between 250 and 450 °C.

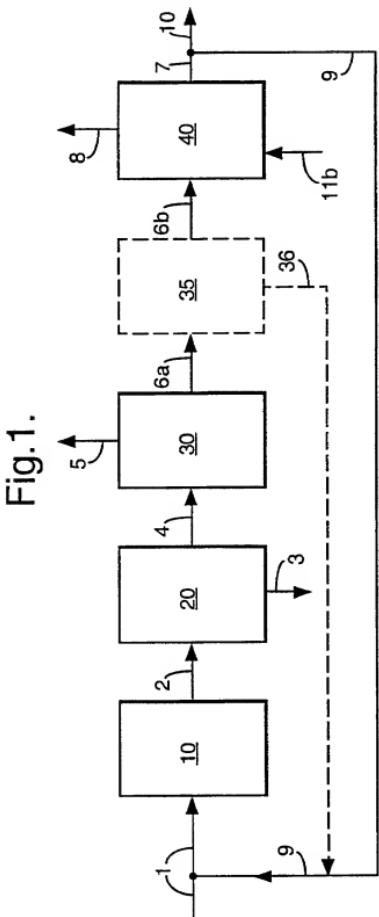
15. Process according to one or more of claims 11-14, in which the hydrocracking treatment is carried out at a pressure up to 400 atmospheres, preferably at a pressure between 10 and 200 atmospheres.

5 16. Process according to one or more of claims 7-15, in which the hydrogen generated by the catalytic oxidation step has been produced at least partly from hydrocarbons containing at most 4 carbon atoms present in the hydrocarbonaceous feedstock or as produced during the hydrocracking treatment.

10 17. Process according to claim 16, in which the feedstock to the catalytic oxidation step consists of hydrocarbons having 4 or less carbon atoms.

15 18. Process according to one or more of claims 1-17, in which hydrogen is separated off from the hydrocracked feedstock and from the hydroporesssed product if the latter is not to be recovered prior to the treatment to produce hydrogen.

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# DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

HYDROCARBON CONVERSION PROCESS the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

was filed on 9 May 2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number Number PCI/EP00/04397 and was amended on 28 March 2001 (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

## PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority  
Not Claimed

APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED
<u>99303733.2</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>13 May 1999</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS-PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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